

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2 **WHEREAS**, the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) adopted by Council in
3 April of 2019 sets the goal of achieving a 50/50 transportation mode share by
4 2039, including through investments in urban trails and transit infrastructure and
5 embraces the following policy guidance:

- 6 • Provide high-quality urban trails that can serve all users: Acknowledge
7 urban trails as assets that should be constructed, operated, and maintained in
8 a manner equivalent to other parts of the transportation network.
- 9 • Provide high-quality urban trails designed for people of all ages and
10 abilities: Implement a system of urban trails designed for people of all ages
11 and abilities.
- 12 • Pursue opportunities to connect to and expand the urban trail system:
13 Expand the urban trail system to connect more people to nature and provide
14 recreation and mobility opportunities; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Strategic Direction 2023 Plan adopted by Council in March of
16 2018, includes the following Mobility and Health & Environment Strategies:

- 17 • Improve Austin’s street network grid and fill gaps in our sidewalk, bicycle,
18 and urban trail systems based on highest need and greatest impact.
- 19 • Increase options for travelers and employees to get to and from the airport,
20 including by frequent and high-capacity transit.

- 21 • Leverage innovative financing models and partnerships to support, maintain,
22 and expand parks, open spaces, recreational facilities, and our urban trail
23 network; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Bergstrom Spur is an approximately 6-mile long inactive rail
25 corridor running from Vinson Drive in Southwest Austin to U.S. 183 in Southeast
26 Austin near the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport; and

27 **WHEREAS**, this corridor will provide vital connections, not just to the Austin-
28 Bergstrom International Airport but to the South Pleasant Valley Corridor, the
29 Country Club Creek Trail, the buffered cycle tracks on Todd Lane, Burleson Road,
30 East and West St. Elmo Road, South Congress Avenue, current and future transit
31 stations, and other civic assets ; and

32 **WHEREAS**, the Urban Trails Master Plan, adopted by Council in September
33 of 2014 identified the Bergstrom Spur as a Tier I Urban Trail; and

34 **WHEREAS**, in June of 2019, City Council authorized the execution of an
35 interlocal cooperation agreement with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning
36 Organization (CAMPO) for the development of a corridor Platinum Planning study
37 for the Bergstrom Spur; and

38 **WHEREAS**, the Bergstrom Spur Corridor Study, funded through a CAMPO
39 grant of \$280,000 and \$70,000 matching funds from the voter-approved
40 Proposition 1 - 2016 City of Austin Mobility Bond - was completed in December
41 of 2020; and

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43 **WHEREAS**, this study envisions the Bergstrom Spur as “a vibrant multi-use
44 corridor that is accessible by and connected to the regional transportation network”
45 and “will provide safe, functional, and equitable transportation options for
46 utilitarian and recreational purposes” and it identified opportunities to transform
47 the Bergstrom Spur into a corridor that will

- 48 • Enhance public health;
- 49 • Improve connectivity and mobility;
- 50 • Celebrate and value the corridor’s people and historical character;
- 51 • Promote environmental and social sustainability; and
- 52 • Catalyze economic development and upward mobility; and

53 **WHEREAS**, improvements to this corridor would serve historically
54 underserved neighborhoods in Southeast Austin and would provide residents in the
55 area more options for transportation to transit, schools, employment centers,
56 commercial centers, and recreation facilities; and

57 **WHEREAS**, increasing active transportation options to Austinites can reduce
58 traffic congestion, improve air quality, and have positive impacts on public health
59 and our local economy; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

60 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

61 The City Council formalizes its support for U.S. Representative Lloyd
62 Doggett’s Member Designated Project Funding request of up to \$25 million to the
63 U.S. House Committee on Appropriations to provide connectivity improvements to

64 the approximately six-mile Bergstrom Spur and commits to fund a 20% local grant
65 match for this project.

66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

67 The City Manager is directed and authorized to identify, including exploring
68 use of general obligation bonds, 20% local matching funds and a contingency plan
69 for any project cost overruns or funding shortfalls if the Member Designated
70 Project Funding award provided is less than \$25 million.

71 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2021 **ATTEST:** _____

72 Jannette S. Goodall
73 City Clerk
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